

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GENEVA 11206

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PASS TO DOE

E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH
SOVIET DELEGATION; QUESTION OF PERMITTED EXPERIMENTS

CTB MESSAGE NO.266

1. DURING AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION BETWEEN TIMERBAEV
AND BELOV (USSR) AND NEIDLE AND MCCORMACK (US) ON
JULY 19, TIMERBAEV EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH RECENT
WARNKE-PETROSYANTS REVIEW OF CTB ISSUES AND DESIRE OF
THE SOVIET DEL TO PRESS AHEAD NOW AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS
POSSIBLE IN THE WORKING GROUPS. TIMERBAEV SAID THE
SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE
MULTILATERAL TREATY AND TECHNICAL ISSUES THAT MIGHT BE
SUSCEPTIBLE TO EARLY RESOLUTION. NEIDLE STRESSED IN
PARTICULAR THE NEED FOR PROGRESS ON NSS AND ALSO FOR
EVIDENCE OF SOVIET FLEXIBILITY ON OUTSTANDING POINTS IN
OSI RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS.

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2. TIMERBAEV RAISED THE QUESTION OF PERMITTED EXPERI-
MENTS, RECALLING SECRETARY VANCE'S COMMENTS TO GROMYKO.
THE SOVIET APPROACH, AS THEY HAD EMPHASIZED, WAS TO
SUPPORT A COMPLETE PROHIBITION. THE SOVIETS WERE SOME-
WHAT PUZZLED ABOUT WHAT THE US WAS AFTER IN REGARD TO
PERMITTED EXPERIMENTS. TIMERBAEV SAID THAT, SPEAKING
AS A POLITICAL OFFICER, HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE

POSSIBLE REACTION OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THERE MIGHT BE PERMITTED EXPERIMENTS UNDER A CTB.

3. TIMERBAEV REFERRED TO AN ARTICLE IN THE JULY 2 "LE MONDE" (TEXT BELOW), WHICH SAID THAT THE US AND USSR WHO ARE NEGOTIATING ON CTB, WOULD BE ABLE TO MODERNIZE THEIR NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LABORATORIES AND WOULD NOT NEED UNDERGROUND TESTS. TIMERBAEV EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT PICK UP THIS LINE. THE IMPRESSION, TIMERBAEV FEARED, COULD BE ONE OF COLLUSION BETWEEN THE US AND USSR. TIMERBAEV THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT THIS QUESTION BE HANDLED IN A WAY THAT WOULD NOT CREATE BROADER POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR THE CTB TREATY.

4. NEIDLE NOTED THAT THE QUESTION OF PERMITTED EXPERIMENTS WAS STILL UNDER STUDY IN WASHINGTON AND THAT WE WOULD WANT TO RETURN TO THE MATTER AT A LATER TIME. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS BY TIMERBAEV, NEIDLE SAID HE COULD NOT GO BEYOND THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS TO GROMYKO. HE WAS UNABLE TO SAY AT THIS TIME HOW WE MIGHT WANT TO DESCRIBE PERMITTED EXPERIMENTS OR IN WHAT FORM WE MIGHT WISH TO EXPRESS ANY POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING. NEIDLE ADDED THAT, IN BEGINNING WORK ON ARTICLE I OF THE MULTILATERAL TREATY (THE MAIN PROHIBITION), IN THE POLITICAL WORKING GROUP, THE US DELEGATION WOULD AFFIRM THAT IT RESERVED ITS RIGHT TO RETURN TO THE QUESTION OF PERMITTED EXPERIMENTS.

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TIMERBAEV SAID THIS APPROACH WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOV DELEGATION.

5. BEGIN TEXT OF DELEGATION TRANSLATION OF PORTION OF JULY 2 ARTICLE IN "LE MONDE" ENTITLED "DISARMAMENT, FRANCE, AND THE SUPER-POWERS" WHICH DEALS WITH SSOD DEVELOPMENTS:

"THE UNGA'S ENCOURAGEMENT OF A COMPLETE BAN ON NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY. FRANCE AND CHINA EXPLICITLY DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM THIS, WITHOUT BREAKING THE CONSENSUS -- ONE OF THE ACCEPTED PRACTICES OF THE UN PROCEDURE BEING THAT EACH MEMBER REMAINS FREE TO CHOOSE WHAT SUITS IT WITHOUT DISTURBING THE GENERAL HARMONY. NEVERTHELESS, THE ASSEMBLY HAS EXPRESSED ITS VIEW. ITS RECOMMENDATION AIMS ONLY AT THOSE POWERS HAVING A MILITARY NUCLEAR CAPABILITY THAT HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETELY DEVELOPED, THAT IS, FRANCE AND CHINA.

"FOR THEIR PART, THE USSR AND THE US, WHICH HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO ANNIHILATE MANKIND MANY TIMES OVER, WILL BE ABLE TO MODERNIZE THEIR ARMAMENT IN LABORATORIES, AND IT IS

LIKELY THAT THEY HAVE NO FURTHER NEED FOR UNDERGROUND TESTS.
THUS, THEY HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING, WITH THE UK, FOR SOME 18
MONTHS A TOTAL CESSATION OF NUCLEAR TESTS. AS AMPLIFIED BY
THE UN, A GREAT POWER AGREEMENT IN THIS AREA, WHICH THE
US REPRESENTATIVE THOUGHT LIKELY IN THE NEAR TERM, WILL
RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO BRING AROUND THE
HOLDOUTS -- FRANCE AND CHINA." END TEXT. JOHNSON

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